

REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

DATE: October 9, 2012

CONTACT: Gary Miller (5-8318)

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: For Information

DEADLINE DATE: none

BACKGROUND:

- Former waste pits used for disposal of paper mill wastes containing dioxins and furans.
- Time critical removal action (TCRA) completed July 2011 by Respondents to cover waste pits (temporary cover) and prevent further releases to the river.
- EPA issued Unilateral Administrative Order for completion of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.

CURRENT ENFORCEMENT STATUS:

- Remedial Investigation in progress; expect Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study completion in 2013.
- Respondents and EPA met on October 9, 2012, to work towards resolving the potential violation issues relating to the TCRA.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

- Fish consumption advisories in place for San Jacinto River; persons should limit fish consumption to no more than one 8-ounce meal per month, and children under 12 and pregnant women should not eat any species of fish.

TECHNICAL CONCERNS:

- Some erosion of the TCRA cap was repaired in August 2012. EPA has asked the US Army Corps of Engineers, as well as the Respondents, to perform reviews of the cap design and construction.

REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Requirements of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Port of Houston, Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County, and others may apply depending on the final remedy selected.
- Special Clean Water Act permit area regarding dredging and disposal in vicinity of Site.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

- Contamination of river and fish in the entire watershed.
- The EPA co-leads a Community Advisory Committee regarding Site activities. This committee includes the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Harris County, the Port of Houston, Houston Galveston Area Council, the Galveston Bay Foundation, and the Potentially Responsible Parties. This committee meets every other month regarding progress at the Site and community issues.
- The EPA is participating with the Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC) to study impacts of discharges to the San Jacinto River and watershed.
- A Technical Assistance Grant has been awarded to Galveston Bay Foundation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Completion of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study,
- Continue participation in the Community Advisory Committee.



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